

## The Times-Dispatch

Business Office: 114 E. Main Street  
 South Richmond: 1020 Hull Street  
 Petersburg Bureau: 100 N. Broadway Street  
 Lynchburg Bureau: 215 Eighth Street

BY MAIL: One Six Three One  
 Year: \$10.00  
 Six Months: \$5.00  
 Three Months: \$2.50  
 Daily without Sunday: 40c  
 Sunday edition only: 10c  
 Weekly (Wednesday): 10c

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and West Chester: One Week  
 Daily with Sunday: 10 cents  
 Daily without Sunday: 10 cents  
 Sunday only: 5 cents

Entered January 27, 1906, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1911.

## A LONG STEP FORWARD.

The last chapter of a stirring campaign for better government for Richmond was written last night by the Common Council in adopting the ordinance for the administrative board as constituted under the original plan. There can be no longer any doubt as to the civic spirit and the high purpose of the City Council of Richmond. For the good of their city Councilmen have calmly legislated themselves out of office, smashed ward lines, yielded the powerful privilege of patronage and shorn themselves of important rights and powers. The measure originated in the Council. It was a splendid public spirit which actuated the Council, and the deep gratitude of the citizens is due to the unselfish men in both branches who voted for the two great changes in our government because they believed these reforms were best for the city and best for the people. In addition, the city owes an inestimable debt of thanks to the Chamber of Commerce, the Business Men's Club and to all the citizens who used their influence and gave their time and labor to effect this advance. The spirit of co-operation and energetic advocacy which animated those who worked for the new plan was the progressive spirit of a great city.

The new form of city government is an experiment, and its result is of vital importance to Richmond. Doubt obtains in some quarters as to the efficiency of this new form, while there is a corresponding belief that it will prove no uncertain success. No judgment can be passed upon it until it has been tried out, and it behooves no one at this time to be dogmatic or dictatorial in regard to it.

The Times-Dispatch is of the opinion that if the principle of concentration of power in a single body be a good thing, then that principle should be carried to its logical extent. Therefore, the Times-Dispatch sees no justification for withholding the Fire, Police and Health Departments from the control of the administrative board. If the principle applies successfully to any departments, it applies equally well to all departments.

Much has been said and written about the failure of commission government to work out in certain places. In many cities commission government has been for some time, and still is, in the experimental stage. Richmond has not been able, under the law, to give commission government a trial, but instead has had a Council which has given the city reasonably good government—certainly, under the old form, Richmond did not suffer greatly. The city has now taken a step which is demonstrably a step toward right government. Under the new form Richmond will save money and simplify procedure, have greater efficiency in the administration of its affairs and in the operation of the departments and utilities.

The new form will be, as we have said, in the nature of a valuable experiment. If under it it shall be shown that Richmond is fitted to adopt more advanced government, the city can then go as far as it chooses in the matter of progressive government. The thing to do now is to get the very best men, the most capable and progressive men, available for the reduced Council and for the administrative board. Every effort should be made to make this new form of government a success. There is no necessity for bitterness and division; this movement for a better form of government has triumphed with singular unanimity; now let us all strive to make this form a singular success.

## PRESIDENT TAFT AND THE PEN- SIONS.

Before the Democrats are done they may learn to their cost the danger of playing that popular and pleasant game entitled "Putting Taft in a hole." It was all well enough to pass the cotton and wool schedules, on the supposition that they would be vetoed. But if President Taft had not proved complaisant, and if those measures had become laws, the Democrats would have been in a very different position before the country. The cotton and wool bills were crudely and badly drawn, and on that ground, at least, President Taft had something on his side. No such defect appears in the dollar-a-day pension bill, which the Democrats so joyously and vociferously supported. That pension bill was the last word in copper-riveted and brazen-faced public looting by shameless politicians. For once the House has recognized wisely on the fact that President Taft would save the country from the folly of the Representatives, but not even the President can save the country from the folly of that disgraceful pension steal from their deserved infamy.

Republicans and Democrats alike supported that intended steal, being content to stultify themselves and pilage their country for the sake of a

few votes from Grand Army veterans. That spectacle of weak-kneed truckling is a sorry commentary on the manliness of Congress. Oscar Underwood had the decency to vote against that measure, and with him eighty-four other Democrats. Among them was not found Speaker Clark. He had gone up and down the land boasting of Democratic economy which had saved \$100,000, and yet he cast his vote on the side of an additional burden of \$75,000,000 on taxpayers already groaning under the cost of living!

Yet poor Champ Clark is just another politician who has not backbone enough to stand up against the organized grafters known as the pension machine. Death itself has not availed to lessen the burden of the pensioners. As real soldiers die, camp followers, bounty jumpers, cooks and sutlers are enlisted to fill up the ranks. When even these pitiful pretenses for patriotism die, widows and orphans and cousins and aunts are impressed. The aim and object of the whole propaganda is to keep the pension burden bound on the backs of the taxpayers. That burden must be shaken off; that useless and wicked waste must be stopped. To do so means to use courage and force and wisdom. All this the Democrats threw away when they tried "to put Taft in a hole." The hole is nearly big enough to hold the Democratic party, and the person at the bottom is not likely to be the President.

## COMMISSION GOVERNMENT IN CANADA.

Vancouver, B. C., has adopted the principle of the single tax, which is reported to have worked well, but it remained for a city on the other side of the continent to lead the Dominion in applying the advanced idea of city government by commission. St. John, N. B., some months ago voted for the commission plan, and a large and representative committee of citizens was immediately organized for the purpose of drafting a new charter. On Monday of last week the document was printed as it stands "in the rough," and it was debated Wednesday evening at a public meeting. In the main, the charter is fashioned after the plan prevailing in many American cities. There are to be a Mayor and four commissioners, the Mayor holding office for two years and the commissioners for four years. Candidates are chosen at primary elections. The Mayor and each commissioner receives \$3,000 annually. The commission must meet at least once a week. All meetings must be open to the public, unless the business under discussion involves the liability of the city from a legal standpoint. Each commissioner is held accountable for the conduct of the department to which he shall be accredited.

The charter proposed does away with property qualifications of candidates. The only qualification is that they shall be qualified voters. The initiative, referendum and recall are included in the charter. One-fifth of the number of votes cast for the Mayor suffice to propose an ordinance or by-law, which, if not enacted by the commission, may be voted upon by the people. No ordinance or by-law save an emergency measure is to go into effect for ten days. During that period, on petition of one-fifth of the voters recorded at the preceding election, the ordinance or by-law will be submitted to the people. The Mayor or any of the commissioners may be ousted from office at any time by a majority vote cast at an election called on petition of 15 per cent. of the voters.

Canada is regarded as very conservative in matters of government, and this departure is remarkably radical. However, it was made in response to "an almost universal demand." The conditions that called for a change may be inferred from a comment in the leading newspaper, the Daily Telegraph: "Simplicity and responsibility are two outstanding features of the charter. It is understood to be the desire of the people of St. John to eliminate red tape, irresponsibility, hole-in-the-corner methods, ward politics, waste and neglect, and come down to the transaction of public business on business principles." Strange, isn't it, that away up in St. John they are trying to effect the very same reform that the people of Richmond are after to-day?

## AN OBSCURED LITTLE BRITISH WAR.

Over in the neighborhood of the Northeastern Bengal frontier, Great Britain has on hand one of her occasional and semi-occasional little wars, which has been obscured in the shuffle of the Persian complication, the Italian-Turkish trial of conclusions for possession of Tripoli, and the Chinese revolution, but which in the end may not prove unrelated quite materially to the last named.

Early in the spring of this year one Noel Williamson, a British agent on the border, accompanied by a personal friend, Dr. Gregorson, an orderly, and thirty-three Nepalese, started out, with the sanction of London, on an exploring, scientific and commercial exploitation venture into territory beyond the line of actual geographical demarcation, but within the sphere of British nominal influence.

Warned by some previous experiences, and perhaps with an eye to the advisability, wisdom and economy of avoiding the chances of having to try two bites at the cherry, London advised the leader to take a strong armed force with him. He chose, however, as we have seen, to run the risk of "peaceful penetration," with the result that the natives, becoming suspicious of his designs, ambushed his party only three of whom escaped

alive. Now follows the usual punitive expedition against the offending tribe of Abors.

We have suggested that this new little war may not in the end prove unrelated to the upheaval in China, and the reason is not far to seek. The little known territory entered by Williamson lies to the southeast of Tibet, the northeast of Assam and directly and immediately north of Burma. It is another location of command of the headwaters of the Yangtze-Kiang, and constitutes another gateway into China, together with a strategic angle of vantage in its bearing on increasing British facilities for strengthening their grip on and extending their influence in the land of the Lamas.

In the event of its becoming necessary for the powers to partition China "in the interest of the world's peace and humanity"—should the powers be "forced" to that recourse—in consequence of the Chinese revolution—the sphere of nominal British influence in question, Williamson sought to spy out and render real, it is more than suspected, could be made another very convenient back door for the entrance of an Anglo-Indian army into both Tibet and the Chinese empire proper.

In the circumstances, one is naturally reminded of similar exploring, scientific, commercial exploitation, and civilizing expeditions from India into Tibet, and cannot but wonder if the aftermath of these, as represented in the Youngblood march to and the battering down of the gates of Lhasa, is going to repeat itself, virtually, in the present instance. Undoubtedly, judging by the history in general of little British wars and punitive expeditions, it would not be astonishing if such should prove the finality. Little British frontier clashes and pacification undertakings have an enormous capacity for development in the direction indicated.

## NAVAL EGG BASKETS.

Observing that Secretary of the Navy Meyer is considering a plan to abolish the Boston, Portsmouth and Brooklyn Navy Yards and substitute one big navy yard to be built on Narragansett Bay, with docks and other facilities for fifty battleships, the Boston Herald asks: "What would it be wise for the Navy Department to put all of its eggs in one basket? Of course not. Nor do we suppose that the secretary or any one else is considering the one-basket policy. We cannot imagine for an instant that he or any one else entertains the idea of abandoning the Norfolk basket."

On the contrary, we can readily conceive that in the proposed reform and concentration plan, enlargement and improvement of that basket is contemplated, as it surely ought to be, and that to the end of carrying out the program as soon as possible. And just here the query suggests itself, as timely and important. What has become of the recommendation of the board appointed to consider the scheme for an island fortification to be constructed between Capes Charles and Henry, for the protection of that great natural naval rendezvous, Hampton Roads, and the approaches to Norfolk, Richmond, Washington and Baltimore, for the protection also of the immense ship building and ship repairing plant at Newport News, which might prove a very present help in keeping our war vessels in effective order in the event of war with another first-class naval power? If our memory serves us correctly, the board gave unanswerable reasons why the between-capes fortification should be built; indeed, it demonstrated that it would be little short of inexcusable folly to delay the work, and continue to expose the Roads and the inland routes from that gateway to the danger of an enemy's essaying to force the one and take advantage of the other, to debark invading columns.

## SCHOOLS THAT PAY.

Germany is going into the world markets and underselling the United States. This is due in great measure to "the number and excellence of her industrial schools," according to a bulletin lately issued by the Federal Bureau of Education. Common consent, it is said further, ascribes the marked advance of Germany along industrial lines to these schools. Statistics show that German sales in the United States have increased almost 100 per cent. since 1890, while to the whole world German products are going in a great and overwhelming stream.

Germany makes a strikingly heavy investment in industrial education. Nearly every small village has at least one industrial school. Often there are two in small cities. There exists very generally correlation between industrial conditions in the cities and towns in which these schools are located and the industrial schools. Manufacturers and working people take great pride and interest in these schools and watch their development closely.

The Germans believe in getting the very best teachers and cutting off waste by giving them good salaries. "Every means has been used to get the right kind of teachers," says the bulletin above referred to. "The teachers in industrial schools are paid higher wages than teachers in the ordinary schools. 'In almost every place one sees men teaching in these schools who are usually artists in their work.' Special schools have been established for teachers in industrial teaching."

## THE PAROLE SYSTEM.

The experience of California has been very strongly in favor of allowing prisoners to be paroled. The system has been in operation in that State for fifteen years, but only lately has it been worked on a large scale.

By the latest report—that of October, 1911—of 2,994 convicts at San Quentin and Folsom, 370 were out on parole. In that month these paroled prisoners earned \$16,000 and saved \$2,875, or more than \$10 each. Since the law has been in force it has been applied gradually and experimentally, but paroled prisoners have earned \$300,000 and saved \$231,736, or about one-fourth of their earnings. Not a single prisoner has been out of employment.

That all should keep the word was not to be expected. There were black sheep in the flock. Some meant well, but yielded to the tempter. Yet, out of 1,596 paroled since the law became effective, only 210, or 13 per cent., have broken their word, and of these all but 77, or 5 per cent. of the whole, escaped. If these are put into the scale against those who have regained their self-respect and a normal life by the chance to work and to make money and to exercise self-control, the result will be seen to be a gain to society. The economic advantage is plain: the prisoner in jail is a dead load upon society; the prisoner on parole making his living is not. The most important result is that noted by the Springfield Republican as "the moral gain of educating in industry and self-reliance offenders who are weak rather than congenitally crooked."

## THE EXODUS FROM NEW YORK.

New York is said to be agitated over the departure of 500,000 people from that city within the year. Many of these have returned to Europe, taking with them between \$50,000,000 and \$100,000,000. The exodus has become so great that immigration authorities assert that by the end of the year, so far as Mediterranean ports are concerned, emigration from this country will be greater than immigration to it. It is probable that the balance of immigration for the whole nation from all the rest of the world will not exceed 300,000, an unusually small number, representing only little more than half the number of people who have left New York for Southern Europe alone. This outgoing tide has exceeded expectation to such an extent that there is practically not a steamer booking to be secured before the first of the year. Every vessel leaving New York is crowded to the limit, and the population of the metropolis is being reduced by shiploads of 2,000 or 2,500 each at the rate of almost 25,000 the week. Just what the cause of this exodus is no one knows precisely. The war between Turkey and Italy has had a certain effect. The small demand for labor in New York has had some bearing.

That old Sun editorial, "Is There a Santa Claus?" written for the benefit of Virginia O'Hanlon, who is now probably an old woman, has just appeared in the Atlanta Georgian, but the worst is yet to come.

The growing population of Richmond is doubtless responsible for the decrease in New York's inhabitants.

## Voice of the People

Socialism in Milwaukee.  
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 14, 1911.  
 Sir—Your editorial, "Not Milwaukee Famous," has been forwarded to the Milwaukee Leader for comment. As I have kept in touch with affairs there since the Socialist movement would like to make a few remarks, I must disagree with you that "the progress made so far is neither remarkable nor promising." It is not so. The Socialists have secured a city purchase agent, who has saved the city about \$50,000 on supplies. A municipal reference library was also established. Kansas City has followed their example in these two measures and other cities will doubtless do so. Their most important contribution to municipal progress, however, is a bureau of economy and efficiency with Professor Commons, of the University of Wisconsin, in charge. Within the short time it has been in operation it has formulated a plan for collecting garbage that will save the city \$18,000 a year, and among other things of importance, combined the fire and police alarm system, which will reduce the cost of that service almost one-half.

The Socialists did not promise the city a new \$1,000,000 park in their platform, but they agitated for one and secured an option at a very low figure, but were kept from buying the property by an injunction, if I am not mistaken.

The pay roll of a city department should be increased \$10,000 signifies nothing. The wages of all common laborers were raised to the regular union scale. The department refused to must have been the street paving department, and can be explained by the fact that the city did a large amount of its paving directly, cutting out the contractor's profit and placing the laborers on the city pay roll.

However, they cut the income of the Socialist city clerk from \$5,100 to \$2,500, and several other officials were

dismissed.

A Word From a Working Woman.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—There have recently been several letters in this column, indignant

calling attention to the fact that the "suffragettes" are attempting to force upon all women an arduous and unwelcome duty, namely, that of voting.

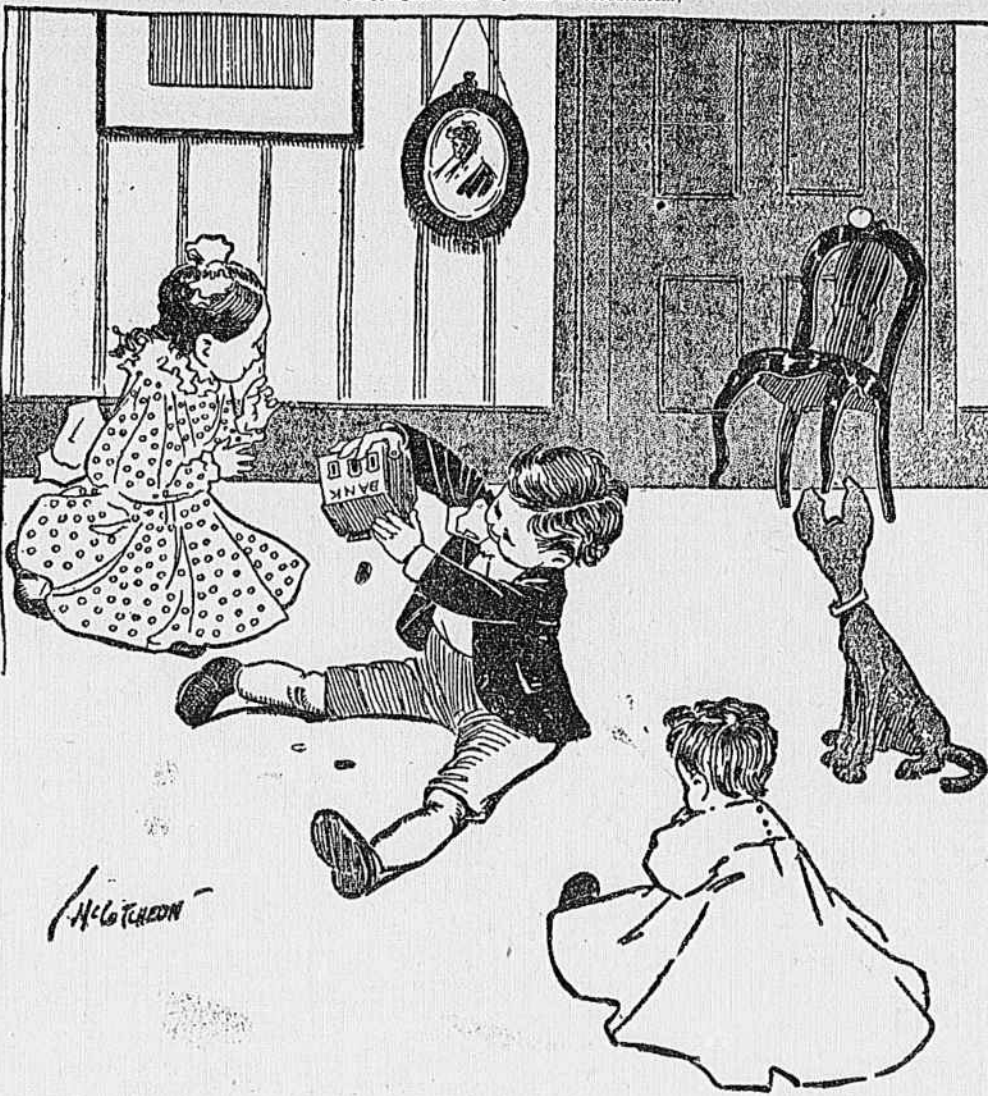
As a working woman and a suffragist, I wish to say that I believe who do believe in woman suffrage are as much entitled to have the right of voting bestowed upon us, as though every woman in the State wished it. It will certainly not be incumbent upon any woman to vote if she does not desire to do so; and it is unquestionably greater injustice to deny to the minority a right to which they believe they are entitled than to put within the reach of the majority a privilege which they do not care to exercise. Women are fully as capable of performing the duty of casting a vote as the men, and if they do feel it absolutely imperative that they should exercise their prerogative, it is a pretty good indication that no conscientious class of citizens ought to have a voice in the public welfare, whether they want it or not.

It seems almost idle to reply to the inane remarks about women having to "rub elbows and jostle with negroes and roughs" at the polls, as men do not seem to find it at all necessary to submit to anything of the kind when they go to vote. Incidentally, granting that the women did have to come into temporary contact with the "lower classes," what do the 12,000 working women of Richmond have to submit to, when they get on the downtown street cars at 8 in the evening? It seems to me about time to stop think-

## PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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Richmond. H. M.

## La Marquise de Fontenoy

LORD ST. LEONARDS, who has just celebrated his coming of age, has many relatives on this side of the Atlantic, where he spent a considerable portion of his youth, first at Melville, Iowa, and afterwards in New York. Having been carefully brought up by his most un happily married but very estimable mother, he may be relied upon, although he has no fortune, to live up to the obligations of the name of his illustrious grandfather, one of the most famous old high chancellors of the Victorian reign, and one of the most celebrated jurists of the nineteenth century.

The first Lord St. Leonards was the Duke Street, St. James's, London. He was a great lawyer, Sir Edward Sugden, who on his elevation to the woolsack was created Lord St. Leonards. He was the son of a well known barber of Duke Street, St. James's, London, who died, full of years and honors, in 1871, being predeceased by his eldest son, Henry, who had left two sons, the eldest, Lord St. Leonards, and the second son, Lord St. Leonards.

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That there should be hostile and vindictive opposition to socialism by the beneficiaries of low taxation, paying graft, city supplies graft, etc., is only natural. As it is to the advantage of Democratic and Republican editors to spread the false reports that these "respectable" and old-fashioned Socialists are supposed to be "dreamers" and "impractical" by people who are otherwise intelligent and well informed.

Richmond. JACK RICOVA.

## Critiques Arithmetic Book.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—The book, "Arithmetic," by Colaw and Ellwood, which has been adopted for use in the public schools of Virginia, Colaw & Ellwood's arithmetic will be dropped from the list.

The authors seem to have forgotten that they were making a book for use by pupils of immature minds. Abstracts have been introduced into the early pages of the book, which, if they have any place in it at all, should have been left for its closing pages.

Colaw and Ellwood may be mighty smart at mathematics, but they do not know how to make a book. The arithmetic for use by the average pupil in the public schools of Virginia.

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vant girl, for which, despite his rank as a high-ranking legislator, he was sentenced to a term in jail. He died, forgotten, despoiled and in poverty, in remote Welsh village, in his sixtieth year, leaving an only daughter, brought up by her mother, whom he never saw after her infancy, and who married to Captain Drury Lowe, of the Grenadier Guards. He was succeeded in his peerage by his nephew, son of his brother, the late Henry Frank Sugden.

The latter, with his wife and children, spent a number of years in the United States, where indeed some of his younger daughters were born. While here, Henry Frank Sugden's drinking habits were such that it became necessary for his wife's brother to come out from England to take her and the children home. Subsequently a reconciliation took place, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Frank Sugden lived together, until the former went into another career of drunkenness, swallowed even methylened spirits when he could get nothing else. It was during one of his drunken fits that he had a battle royal with his wife, which resulted in blows. The divorce court granted Mrs. Sugden the decree of judicial separation, which she had petitioned on the plea of cruelty and maltreatment, at the same time confiding the two children of the marriage to her custody. He died in 1899.

The aunt of the present Lord St. Leonards, namely, Emma Sugden, is married to George Reid, of San Jose, Cal., and in 1891, when she was a member of the house of Sugden who has found domestic happiness on this side of the Atlantic. Young Lord St. Leonards has no brothers, and will, he to die unmarried, the St. Leonards peerage would fall to Frank Sugden, eldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sugden, who was the principal beneficiary of the will of his father, the old lord high chancellor.

London's new thug octogenarian lord mayor, Sir Thomas Crosby, M. D., the first physician to hold that office in the thousand years of its existence, has just been elected master of the Guild or Company of "The Apothecaries of the city of London." It is a society much less ancient than some of the others, dating only from 1668, when King James I. granted to the Apothecaries, who until then had formed a guild, and parcel of the City Guild of Grocers, a royal charter, by means of which, by means of a royal charter. Owing to the disputes between physicians and apothecaries, a judgment of the House of Lords, delivered just a hundred years later, decreed that the duty of the Apothecaries' Society consisted not only to compound and dispense, but also to direct and order the remedies employed in the treatment of disease. In 1815 an act of Parliament was placed on the statute book which restricted the dispensation of medicines to those alone who had been licensed to act as apothecaries by the Society of Apothecaries, after due examination, at the same time ordering that nothing in the statute should interfere with the rights and privileges of the Royal College of Surgeons, and where the Royal College of Physicians, even going so far as to provide severe penalties for any apothecary who should refuse to compound and dispense medicines, on the prescription of a physician legally qualified to act as such.

The Apothecaries' Society is governed by a master, that is to say, the present lord mayor, by two wardens, and by twenty-two assistants. The members of the society are divided into three grades: freemen, the livery and the court. Women are not, however, admitted to the freedom. The hall of the society, situated in Water Lane, London, and where the banquets and meetings of the society are held, covers an acre, was acquired in 1653, was destroyed by the great fire, but was rebuilt ten years later. The society had at one time a botanic garden, at Chelsea, and also physic gardens, presided by Sir Hans Sloane, under certain conditions. These were found so onerous by the society that eight years ago they were turned over to the State Charity Commissioners. (Copyright, 1911, by the Brentwood Company.)

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